

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 SAJ-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 EB-11 SAM-01 AID-20

OMB-01 /168 W

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R 051728Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4211

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

CONFIDENTIAL BONN 12341

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, GW, GV

SUBJECT: WEST GERMAN RELATIONS WITH GUINEA

REF: CONAKRY 1155

1. WE EXPECT THAT SPECULATION ABOUT IMMINENT OR EARLY RESUMPTION OF RELATIONS BETWEEN FRG AND GUINEA IS SOMEWHAT PREMATURE. AFTER DISCUSSING THE PRISONER RELEASE AND ITS IMPLICATIONS (WITH FONOFF'S DIRECTOR FOR NORTHERN AND WESTERN AFRICA, WEVER, AND WITH GUINEA DESK OFFICER, FRAU SCHNABEL) WE HAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT THE GERMANS HAVE MADE NO POLICY DECISIONS, THAT THEY DO NOT CONSIDER THAT THEY HAVE ENTERED INTO ANY COMMITMENTS, AND THAT THEY ARE IN FACT UNCERTAIN ABOUT JUST HOW THINGS WILL NOW PROCEED.

2. THE STRONGEST INHIBITING FACTOR IS LIKELY TO BE THE PUBLIC REACTION TO THE "MARX STORY," ONCE IT IS THOROUGHLY AIRED IN THE DAILY PAPERS AND, PARTICULARLY, IN CONFIDENTIAL

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THE ILLUSTRATED WEEKLY MAGAZINES. INITIAL PRESS REPORT-

ING ON THE PRISONERS' RELEASE AND THEIR ARRIVAL IN EUROPE WAS QUITE RESTRAINED (ALTHOUGH IT CERTAINLY MADE CLEAR THAT MARX WAS IN BAD SHAPE, BOTH MENTALLY AND PHYSICALLY), BUT THE FONOFF EXPECTS THAT THE MORE LURID STORIES ARE YET TO COME. NEVER FEARS, AS A CONSEQUENCE, A REACTION THAT COULD MAKE IT POLITICALLY IMPOSSIBLE FOR THE FRG TO MOVE IN ITS RELATIONS WITH GUINEA FOR SOME TIME TO COME. THE BUNDESTAG HAS OF COURSE LONG BEEN AWARE OF AND INTERESTED IN THIS CASE.

3. THE INTERMEDIARIES, PEDINI AND LEWIN, WERE NOT AUTHORIZED TO MAKE ANY SPECIFIC COMMITMENTS REGARDING DEVELOPMENT AND ESTABLISHMENT OF RELATIONS AND THE GERMANS ARE ASSUMING THAT THEY DID NOT. AT THE SAME TIME, THE GERMANS TAKE IT FOR GRANTED THAT THERE IS SOME GUINEAN INTEREST IN RAPID MOVEMENT, FOR BOTH POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC REASONS. THE POLITICAL RATIONALE, AS SET FORTH BY FRAU SCHNABEL, IS THAT A NUMBER OF FACTORS, OF WHICH THE IMMINENT END OF THE PORTUGUESE COLONIAL EMPIRE IS PERHAPS THE MOST NOTABLE, HAVE MADE SEKOU TOURE REALIZE THAT HE IS AT A TURNING POINT AND THAT THE OLD SHIBBOLETHS WILL NO LONGER HAVE THEIR DESIRED DOMESTIC POLITICAL EFFECT. MOREOVER, ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE IS URGENTLY REQUIRED TO DEAL WITH A SERIOUSLY DETERIORATED SITUATION.

4. WITH REGARD TO THE LATTER, FRAU SCHNABEL POINTED OUT THAT IT WILL PROBABLY BE SOME TIME BEFORE SIGNIFICANT AMOUNTS OF GERMAN AID CAN BE PROVIDED FOR GUINEA, WHICH BEFORE THE RUPTURE WAS ONE OF THE FRG'S BIGGEST AFRICAN RECIPIENTS. APART FROM A NATURAL RELUCTANCE ON POLITICAL GROUNDS TO RESUME AN AID PROGRAM, IT WILL BE DIFFICULT IN THE EXTREME TO FIND GERMAN SPECIALISTS WILLING TO RESIDE IN GUINEA. THIS MEANS THAT ANY INCLINATION ON THE PART OF THE GUINEANS TO TIE MOVEMENT IN BILATERAL RELATIONS TO AGREEMENT ON THE RESUMPTION OF AID WOULD ALSO OPERATE AS A DELAYING FACTOR.

HILLENBRAND

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS ESTABLISHMENT, PRISONERS RELEASE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 AUG 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: cunninfx
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974BONN12341
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740213-0429
From: BONN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740875/aaaacmij.tel
Line Count: 99
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: CONAKRY 1155
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: cunninfx
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23 APR 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <24 FEB 2003 by cunninfx>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: WEST GERMAN RELATIONS WITH GUINEA
TAGS: PFOR, GE, GV
To: STATE CONAKRY
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005